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Egg-celent hiking

Katie Cox, left, of Bethel Heights Farm holds a chicken, centre, for an interested hiker during her guided tour of the farm. Cox was one of the hike leaders for Hike Haliburton's winter edition, which was held over this past weekend. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Election candidates need to address homelessness, says Sayne

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

People need to cast ballots and make their choice in the current provincial election as if the quality of their lives depended on its outcome.

Quite simply, that's exactly what one person's vote on Feb. 27 means in such a difficult social and financial time.

Councillor Pam Sayne said during Minden Hills Jan. 30 council meeting that more responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments have been downloaded to municipalities. And that's taken a financial toll on tax rolls.

"That downloading is hurting all of us a great deal," Sayne said. "And we cannot continue to raise taxes in order to support the basic services we need to support. Particularly the ones that the province is responsible for."

Increases to taxes and living costs are proof the election can be a crucial moment for quality of life. Sayne attended the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) conference in Toronto where she was struck

see ENDING page 2

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Mammography arrives at HHHS

by EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

"This is such a historical moment for our community," said Lauren Ernst, the communications and employee experience lead for Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), in reference to the long-awaited arrival of a mammography machine at the Haliburton Hospital site.

The journey towards diagnostic imaging for HHHS was kickstarted last year, and the team moved quickly to hustle the process along, knowing that the additions to the services would directly benefit the community.

"Diagnostic imaging tools are key to our future success and providing care locally," said HHHS CEO Veronica Nelson. "We know that these services will better support the needs of patients with quicker diagnostics."

An additional benefit to including diagnostic imaging in the roster of services HHHS offers is that they will reduce EMS visits out of county, which aims to keep ambulances available for local emergencies. On top of that, the expansion of services also hopes to attract more healthcare workers to the rural site, including doctors, nurses, and medical radiation technologists.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society, it is estimated that approximately one in eight women will develop breast cancer over their lives. In 2024, 30,500 were diagnosed across the country. Early detection is key to managing symptoms and improving success rates towards treatment plans.

"Mammography is the most effective way of detecting breast cancer in women," said Nelson. "With the addition of mammography services, HHHS will be able to provide services in a remote area that is currently underserved, including over 6000 at-risk women who live here."

On Feb. 3, HHHS welcomed the delivery of the mammography machine on-site. Through snowy weather, Melanie Klodt Wong, the HHHSF Executive Director and David Blodgett, HHHSF Board Chair joined Nelson in taking the heavy machinery off the truck, and delivering it into the Haliburton Hospital site.

"We are so excited to have this state of the art equipment here in Haliburton," said Nelson. "We are one of the first hospitals in Ontario that has this type of mammography equipment."

The CEO noted that the equipment will enable hospital staff to identify images that can see behind dense breast tissue, offering further insight and medical imaging to ensure early risks of breast cancer are treated effectively and quickly, without having to leave the county for those images.

The machine will be up and running in three to four weeks time, to enable appropriate staff training on the unit.

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Life-saving diagnostic imaging equipment

Melanie Klodt Wong, HHHSF Executive Director, David Blodgett, HHHSF Board Chair, and Veronica Nelson, HHHS President and CEO stand next to the recently delivered mammography equipment at the Haliburton Hospital Site. /DAVID ZILSTRA staff

Council hopes election outcome bears fruit

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

A provincial election in the midst of the current economic crunch may present an opportunity to rural municipalities.

Minden Hills Mayor Bob Carter said municipal councils are in the business of getting things done. They don't throw allegiance behind any one of the political parties, he said.

At least, councils and individuals on council don't do that in an official capacity.

"Whoever is in power, we have to deal with them," Carter said. "Like it or not, the province has the money and many of our projects are grants, the funding that we get comes from the province."

Councillor Pam Sayne said more responsibilities of the provincial and federal governments have been downloaded to municipalities. And that's taken a financial toll on tax rolls.

"That downloading is hurting all of us a great deal," Sayne said. "And we cannot continue to raise taxes in order to support the basic services we need to support. Particularly the ones that the province is responsible for."

The mayor had many one-on-one meetings with provincial officials and ministers. Many of those discussions revolved around money and rural municipality's need for it.

"This is something that will continue to go forward," Carter said. "This is often the best time to ask for money, during an election period."

There will be a new government in March, regardless of which party wins the majority.

"We will see what happens and hopefully we will be able to get a better deal for the municipalities," he said.

Sayne urged people to cast their ballot in the provincial election. People need to vote as if the quality of their lives depended on it.

"Because it does," she said.

The current short election campaign is in its early days yet. But Carter said there's already been much discussion on the various social media channels.

"No matter who you support, we have to go forward as a community," he said. "At least try to be nice to one another in the commentary. Life is too short to be taking all of this personal."

Support whichever party or candidate you choose but be respectful of other people and their choice of candidate.

"Let's keep it civil because we have to come together at the end of this election as a community and deal with whomever gets elected," Carter said.

It seemed a lack of civility is becoming more common in many centres throughout Ontario. Councillors from different communities shared similar stories of abuse during the recent Rural Ontario Municipal Association conference.

Deputy Mayor Lisa Schell said many people don't realize the level of abuse that's directed at municipal council members now compared to when she started out almost 20 years ago.

"It's like they have a right to abuse you," she said. "Quite frankly I'm getting quite sick of it."

Ending homelessness is province's job

from page 1

by the stark evidence of homelessness.

And that isn't a problem limited to just the larger urban centres.

"Here in Minden, we have people living in their cars," she said. "In Haliburton, we have people trying to survive."

She heard talk at municipal meetings about people living and trying to make a life in forests, she said.

"And all I thought about was the people in our forest living in a tent right now," she said. "We have a homeless issue right here, we have it across the province."

Sayne said research has shown that upwards of 80,000 Ontarians have been rendered homeless because of provincial government policies and social programming changes. Of those, she said 1,400 people live in public parks.

No organization or research paper was cited as a source for those numbers. But, anecdotally, there are more tents erected at the sides of highways in rural areas far from Toronto.

In Toronto, the destitute sleep on subway grates to benefit from the heat from trains passing underneath. Given the discussion during the ROMA gathering, Sayne said such sights were given a particular weight as delegates walked by to eat at restaurants.

"We can't see homelessness as clearly here as we see it in those other places," she said. "But these are provincial responsibilities. They're not municipal responsibilities. Yet you can see how we're taking on the provincial responsibility."

Mayor Bob Carter said earlier in the council meeting that the Kawartha Lakes Haliburton Housing Corporation received $3.2 million for two housing projects.

One project is in Lindsay and the other is in Minden Hills.

That local project, which will break ground this year, will get $2.4 million of that purse. The contributions came from the provincial government, and were announced on Jan. 28 during a fast-tracked media conference in Minden.

"That $2.4 million is very, very welcome," Carter said.

"It's great to have that $2.4 million, but how much more is that building going to cost and why are we taking it from our taxpayers and businesses and small businesses who are struggling when it's a provincial responsibility?" Sayne said.

Homelessness in Ontario has increased 25 per cent since 2022, she said.

"And if it continues on, it'll reach 300,000 in no time from the 80,000," she said. "You can see we have some major issues here that we are elected to put forward and take to the province."

Homelessness is but one component in a larger social issue, which is also an area where the provincial government has fallen down.

Sayne said the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, a group that will meet in Ottawa in August on which she's a representative, has called on the province to do better against the opioid crisis and pressing health care needs.

Provincial responsibilities include addressing the needs of health care, schools, and senior citizens.

Whatever party wins the election at the end of the month, the provincial government needs to sit with ROMA and AMO to conduct a social and economic prosperity review, Sayne said.

"So that funding comes through and municipalities are no longer trying to raise taxes to support the provincial responsibilities," she said. "We can't keep taking it from people who are on fixed incomes, from seniors, and from our businesses trying to survive.

MH Town Hall highlights need for identity

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Andy Mitchell, former cabinet minister, facilitates the discussion at the Community Engagement Program Town Hall Meeting on Jan. 29 in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

On Wednesday, Jan. 29, Arising Collective facilitated a discussion at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena. The session was intended to gather input from the Minden Hills community to contribute to the township's Community Priority/ Strategic Plan. Andy Mitchell, former cabinet minister and mayor of Selwyn led the discussion in-person on Jan. 29.

The township's goals for the session included learning about what the community cares most about, assets and attributes of Minden Hills, and expectations for the community in the future.

To begin the discussion, Mitchell asked the audience what made them move to Minden Hills.

Responses included:

- Minden Hills has the potential to craft its own future
- Benefits of a smaller community
- Capability of raising a family
- Multi-generational families living around the same area
- Service clubs of the community
- Having property on water
- Unique geography including rocks and forests
- Capability to fish and hunt near your community

Following this, Mitchell asked the audience about the gaps that are present in the community. Responses included:

- Inter-county and inter-provincial transportation
- Lack of a swimming pool or accessible swimming areas
- Affordable and appropriate housing
- Lack of communication and clarity from the township
- The Township of Minden Hills' Planning Department, By-Laws, and issues with permits
- Failure to maintain existing infrastructure

The need to further recognition of Indigenous Peoples' lands and improve diversity and inclusivity

"Like many of us, I have a horror story with the planning department," said an unnamed audience member. "But I must say, the snowplow operator has been wonderful."

Following the discussion of gaps, Mitchell asked the audience whether growth in the community was viewed as a positive or negative thing. The overall consensus was that growth can be a positive thing as long as it is controlled. Rapid growth included concerns for the natural environment, the small town charm, and lack of infrastructure in Minden.

Mitchell then asked the audience what they would like to see in their community, without any constraints getting in the way. Responses included:

- Tearing down the Beaver Theatre and replacing that space with something beneficial to the community
- Alternative school choices
- Smooth and effective communication between county council, township council, and service clubs
- Multi-generational living arrangements and housing to cover entirety of your lifecycle
- Innovations with housing
- A splash pad
- An information centre, with washroom facilities
- High speed internet connectivity
- A water feature for the Gull River
- The return of Music on the Gull

Following this, Mitchell facilitated a discussion on Minden Hills' identity. Shawn Smandych, a local business owner said that Minden Hills lacks a consistent identity with several others in the room agreeing. Smandych proposed that Minden Hills could consider themselves as the "Gateway to the Highlands" as several of the county's highways cross through Minden. Beautifying the town, incorporating an information centre, and marketing Minden itself as a destination was discussed. Smandych pointed out that many people in the room were unfairly talking Minden down.

Smandych said that as a business owner, people need to stop considering Minden Hills as an inferior alternative to Haliburton. Others agreed that throughout the evening, comments were highly self-deprecating and that this inferiority complex is detrimental to businesses that call Minden home. Despite the negative talk, a sense of pride of Minden Hills was shared by many.

In addition to the survey and public discussion opportunities, Arising Collective met privately with businesses, organizations, and other groups within the Minden Hills community for their feedback.

On Thursday, Jan. 30, Arising Collective hosted an additional session over Zoom. During the in-person on Jan. 29, Mitchell said that the Zoom session was for people that could not make it in-person.

"There did seem to be more seasonal residents participating in the virtual Town Hall, but there was still a lot of consensus during the Town Halls about the community assets that people value, the challenges and opportunities facing the community, and the vision for the future," said Jenn Harrington, partner and co-founder of Arising Collective. "There is a lot of pride about the resiliency of the community and the way that people join together to support one another in tough times."

Following the in-person session, Lauren Hunter, Strategic Communications and Planning Specialist at Arising Collective demonstrated how to find the link for the survey that will be open to fill out until Feb. 2. Questions in the survey include what you like most about Minden Hills, importance of community assets, why choose to live in Minden Hills, which opportunities for engagement would be best to engage with other members of the community, and the challenges of living in Minden Hills. The survey is available at www.surveymonkey.com/r/MindenHillsSurvey.

"The Community Engagement Program has been well-received, and Arising Collective has felt very welcomed by the community during the process," said Harrington.

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TOWNSHIP SEEKING MEMBERS FOR THE PROPERTY STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Township of Minden Hills is currently seeking resident members to serve on the Property Standards Committee for the 2024-2026 term. Interested individuals are encouraged to apply by submitting a copy of their resume and cover letter to admin@mindenhills.ca by February 21, 2025. For more information regarding the Property Standards Committee visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

The safest place is well behind the plow. Wait for plows to pull over before passing. Don't accelerate too quickly - the road ahead is unplowed and could be slick or snowy. Avoid parking in the street. Plows can't clear roads that are blocked by parked cars.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

NO ICE IS SAFE ICE. Always use extra caution when venturing on the lakes - if you don't need to go onto the ice, don't!

WINTER PARKING

From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently recruiting for the following vacancies:

- Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator
- Seasonal Waste Disposal Site Attendants
- Part-Time Waste Disposal Site Attendants
- Summer Students
- Temporary Community Services Operator

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. Meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **February 13 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **February 27 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0 705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917 Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills

Plans coming together for fairgrounds music festival

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

The people of Minden Hills want to see things happening in their community.

That was the impetus that set in motion plans for a proposed three-day summer music festival in the community.

Cynthia Fletcher, the township's CAO, brought during council's Jan. 30 meeting preliminary details of the family-oriented Ohana Music Festival.

Organizers approached the municipal and asked about renting the Minden Fairgrounds for the festival that could take place Aug. 22 to 24 of this year.

Fletcher said the proponent has organized national and international events for more than 40 years. In fact, the organizer lives in the township from May to October every year.

> "This is exciting for Minden Hills"
> — CYNTHIA FLETCHER, CAO

Two clear focuses of the festival is family and a means to give back to the community, she said.

Ohana means "Family" and the goal of the Ohana Music Festival is to bring the community together.

"Before this got too far down the road, council, we wanted you to be aware that staff is working with the organizers," Fletcher said.

Local food vendors will be approached, service clubs will be included, high school students will be given an opportunity to accumulate volunteer hours, and a local business will coordinate waste management on site and arrange for disposal.

"This is exciting for Minden Hills," Fletcher said.

The event will focus on low carbon impact. For example: two water stations will be provided by the organizer and attendees will be asked to bring re-fillable containers to the event as a means of reducing materials to be recycled.

"We're not organizing this event," she said. "We're supporting, so if you want to volunteer you need to contact the organizers. I'm confident we can work through any logistics or any concerns that folks might have."

Councillor Tammy McKelvey asked if spectators will be allowed to camp during the event.

"Not camping on the fairground itself," Fletcher said. "But they're working with local areas.

Public health provides means to update immunization

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Parents of school-aged children have until Feb. 24 to submit updated vaccination records to the local public health unit.

The Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough public health unit is promoting the importance of submitting proof of immunization updates as a means to ensure against student suspensions from school.

Suspension could begin April 1.

The HKNP health unit was formerly called the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge health unit.

Under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA), all students from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 11 are required to have up-to-date immunization records or a valid exemption on file with the health unit.

Despite issuing over 1,500 first notices, the health unit has received just over 300 immunization updates. Parents and guardians are urged to act now and avoid any disruptions to their child's education.

Suspension notices will be sent March 17 regarding students who remain non-compliant under the legislation.

Students with missing immunization records will be suspended from school April 1 until records are updated.

"It's important for parents and guardians to report their child's immunization updates directly to the health unit," said Marianne Rock, the health unit's health protection division manager.

> "It's important for parents and guardians to report their child's immuniza–tion updates directly to the health unit.
> – MARIANNE ROCK, HKNP HEALTH UNIT

"We do not automatically receive this information from family healthcare providers, so it is the responsibility of parents and guardians to ensure the health unit is informed of any updates."

There are a number of means available to help parents comply with the update request.

The public health unit has an online immunization update portal at hkpr.on.ca/immunization.

Parents can phone the health unit at 1-866-888-4577 extension 1507 for guidance.

The health unit will be offering catch-up immunization clinics for families without a healthcare provider.

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Not intended to solicit properties already listed for sale

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Youth Unlimited Gym Nights
When: Feb 7 - Bubble Soccer 6:30 to 9 p.m., Mar 7 - Sports and Dodgeball 6:30 to 9 p.m., Apr 4 - Sports and 9 Square 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
For Grades 6 to 12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

Minden Ice Races Schedule 2025
When: Feb. 8-9, Feb. 15-16, Feb. 22-23, and Mar. 1-2
Where: Minden Fairgrounds
Spectator admission is free. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays.
Experience adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track!

"Understanding Addictions: How to give support through challenging times"
When: Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.
Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St., Haliburton
You are invited to a discussion with community members of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, who will tell us some of their stories and about the 12-step path as a road to recovery. This is part of a continuing series on "Making our Communities Better Places", and will be opened with music by Rich Anton and Gord Kidd. Open to all, no admission charge, light refreshments provided. Hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Recurring events

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes
When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

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Puzzle paradise: Minden Library puts the pieces together

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The Minden Library has started offering a puzzle swap table, for people of all ages. You do not have to return the puzzle once it is completed, but you are welcome to drop another one off in good condition. /photo submitted

Winter can be tough on many.

Long nights, short days, and a whole lot of cold in the middle.

But the Haliburton County Public Library (HCPL) has figured out a way to keep people's minds busy. And no, it's not just through reading.

"A puzzle swap," said Hillary Montgomery, public services manager and deputy CEO of HCPL, "where patrons can take a puzzle and/or leave a puzzle during their library visit."

The concept came to be when a series of Minden library patrons made the suggestion over a year ago to the HCPL team. "We tried it out a few times at different branches and then the staff at our Minden Branch decided it would work great as a drop in display," said Montgomery. "So people can swap any time they are in the branch."

Unlike library books, the puzzles do not necessarily need to be returned, but the library welcomes them back once they have been completed. You can also bring in any old puzzles that may be laying around, looking for a new home. "We accept any puzzle in good condition with no missing pieces," said Montgomery.

While the official puzzle swap location is designated to the Minden branch of the HCPL, Montgomery noted that there are a series of small pop-up puzzle swap days in other locations in the county.

The Wilberforce branch will be hosting theirs on Feb. 11 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m., with others to follow. Details will be on the HCPL website, or shared on their social media pages.

During these select times, patrons can drop off or pick up any puzzles they are interested in from the designated branches.

If puzzles aren't your cup of tea, HCPL also offers a wide variety of additional programming on any given day across the county, including book clubs, ukulele lessons, family story times, after school crafts, board game afternoons, and classic movie viewings, to name a few.

There are dozens of other options available, with the majority being offered free of charge to anyone interested in the community. Visit www.haliburtonlibrary.ca/Programs-Events for a full list of everything being offered, and keep an eye on the HCPL social media channels for ongoing updates and information.

Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival returns Family Day Weekend

The Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival returns to the hamlet on Family Day Weekend, getting underway with a family skating party at the Dorset Ice Palace from 6 to 9 p.m. on the evening of Friday, Feb. 14. There will be music, a bonfire and hot chocolate.

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the fun gets rolling at 8:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast at the Dorset Recreation Centre. The cost is $10 per adult and $5 per child five years old or younger. The Snowball Parade will take place along Main Street at 10:30 a.m., followed by the official opening ceremonies.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., a host of activities and events will include horse-drawn wagon rides, face painting, cardboard toboggan races, a hockey shootout and more. A chainsaw artist will sculpt works out of wood, and an interactive walk-through zoo will provide the opportunity to meet some new friends. The Great Canadian Lumberjacks will put on three shows throughout the day. Attendees can try out a kick-sled or take a virtual dog-sled tour, while food vendors will ensure everyone stays well-fed. The event wraps up with Hockey Night in Dorset starting at 6 p.m.

Admission to Snowball is $5. Pre-registration is required to take part in the parade, hockey shootout and cardboard toboggan races. Call 705-766-9968 or visit www.algonquinhighlands.ca to register.

Submitted

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

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Production day

LAST TUESDAY, like every Tuesday, was a production day for the *Minden Times*.

I like production days, because, unlike many other parts of this job, there is some consistency to the day.

I know I start my day early with two coffees. I tend not to schedule interviews or calls, because my priority is to map out the paper - each page a puzzle piece I need to sort with stories and pictures and words - to create a finished product I am proud of. A production.

What I hadn't planned on, though, is that someone else would be putting on a production last Tuesday as well.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

We got a call at 9:47 a.m., asking for our presence at a press conference in Minden, from none other than MPP Laurie Scott's team.

Our pages need to be set out by 10 a.m. to keep us on track for our printers, and I knew I wouldn't make it to the conference, which was set for a mere 43 minutes from the initial phone call.

Not knowing what the meeting would be about, I coordinated a follow-up, and left a space in the paper for the story while I went about with my puzzle in front of me.

By noon, I had the story.

$2.4 million dollars. A press conference assembled in a matter of minutes. 35 housing units in Minden. Bing, bang, boom. Just like that. Easy peasy.

This project has been in discussion for years. I myself sat on Minden's housing task force in 2018 when it was first brought to the table. Circulated and pulled apart and questioned from every which angle. There were problems with municipal zoning, with the MTO, with highway access, with environmental concerns, with finances. You name it, we had it. A project that was seemingly encased in red tape for all eternity.

Until a snap election was called.

And suddenly, that red tape turned into a green light and we all got an early Christmas present (or a late one, if you're a glass-half-empty person).

It became a production. The press conference, the announcement, the approval. All part of a show to highlight the good that the provincial government can do. That they care about housing. That they care about us.

This entire snap election has been a production for Premier Doug Ford. Running under the guise of protecting Ontarians from President Donald Trump, but in reality, he's just hungry for more power. He wants to be the star of the show, the celebrity in the spotlight.

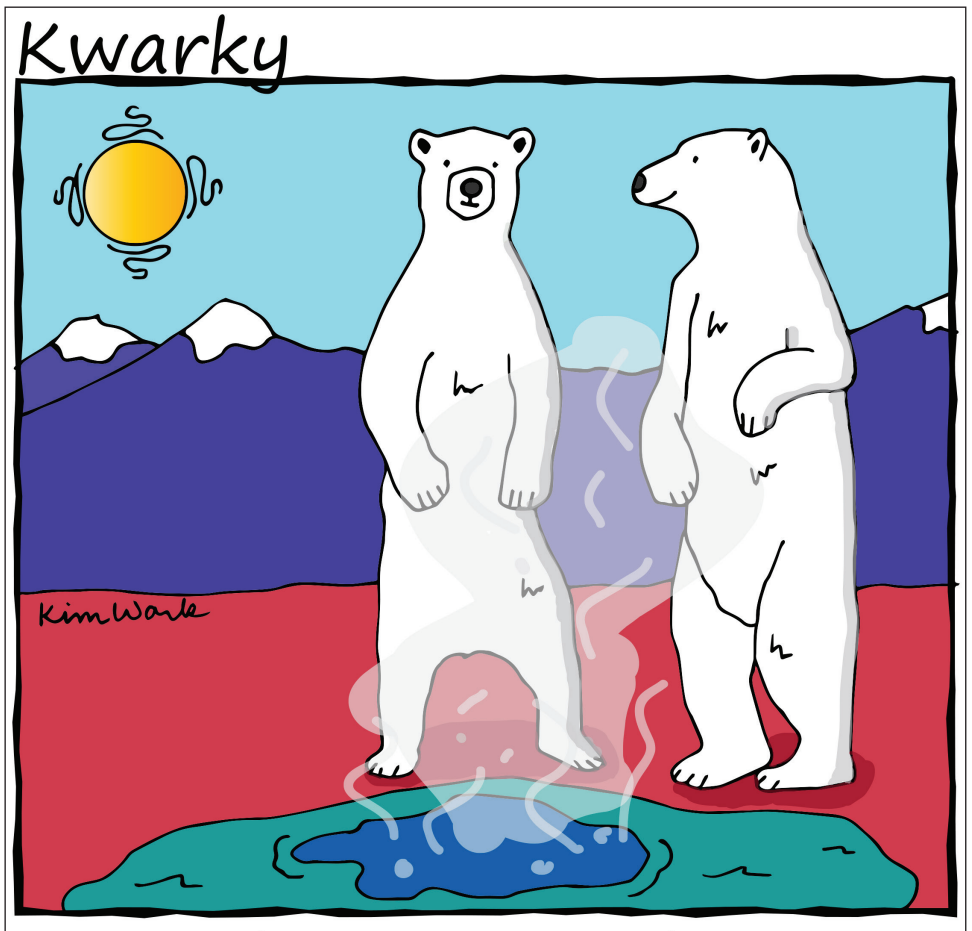
And while we all have some sort of production to put together in our day-to-day lives, some have more of an impact than others.

Be mindful of the tricks in Ford's show. The sneaky cheques in the mail, the sudden care for housing, for infrastructure, for small communities, for us. Elections are productions at the best of times; lights, cameras, and action on a very public stage.

But as soon as the final curtain drops, our rural communities are the ones who are left behind; sweeping the leftover popcorn into bins and watching the credits roll.

So it may feel like we're the star of the show now, but remember, it's all just a production. Smoke and mirrors, razzle and dazzle. Beware of the man behind the curtain. You never know what tricks he has planned.

Because hey, that's show business, baby.



Polar Bear Hot Water Plunge

Showshoes

ALMOST EVERY Canadian outdoor enthusiast I know owns at least one pair of snowshoes – along with four to five pairs of what I call showshoes. There is a difference.

Showshoes are the snowshoes you no longer use. They are the ones that you hang on some wall or outbuilding, or keep in the basement, just in case your newer snowshoes ever wear out. Which, given the amount of snowshoeing that most of use do, is never going to happen.

But who am I kidding? Even then you wouldn't use those showshoes. You'd buy a new pair.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

The problem with showshoes is that they once worked but now have somehow lost their magical ability to keep you afloat high atop the snow.

Who can say why? They worked great 20 years and 40 pounds ago.

Often, they are hand me downs of unique design that are perhaps better suited to specific circumstances. For instance, I happen to own one pair of Ojibwe style snowshoes that are perfect in the woods, provided there is a 40 foot diameter clearing at every place I need to turn. I'm not saying they are long, but I will say I arrive at the place the tip sets down in a half an hour later.

Regardless of their original intent, showshoes still have a purpose.

For instance, if unexpected company visits on a lovely winter day, you can ask them if they want to go snowshoeing. Then they will invariably say, "I'd love to but we left our snowshoes at home."

That's when you point to the showshoes on the wall and say, "No problem, we have enough extras to outfit you…..hey, where they go?"

There are other great uses for them too.

For instance, lets say a bat somehow got into your house and you do not have any tennis rackets handy… I'm sure there are other uses too.

Frankly, it doesn't matter. Some Canadians have snowshoe collections that would make Imelda Marcos blush, and they're not getting rid of them any time soon.

I think this is because we Canadians form a bond with our snowshoes that is difficult for people in other countries to comprehend. Maybe it's because that pair of snowshoes on the wall saved your life or, more importantly, your dignity on some snowshoeing excursion long ago. It might have been the thing you brought to a house party that people laughed at and mocked you for — until the bat got in the house.

Or perhaps it was the pair that you were wearing when you proposed to your wife and she said yes. It doesn't even matter that the question you proposed was, "Do you want to hang these snowshoes up in the basement and never use them again?"

What matters is she said yes.

There are a lot of things you can say about showshoes, but another reason I think Canadians love them is that they are the one item that no other Canadian would ever steal. That's why you see often see them attached to garages, outbuildings, and near the front doors of houses for years on end.

Unfortunately, showshoes are becoming a thing of the past because no one hangs aluminium snowshoes on their walls or garages for decorations.

Or maybe they did, and they just got stolen.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Your attention is worth something

I THINK EVEN the most optimistic observer has to be looking at the current information landscape and admitting to themselves that things are looking pretty bleak. I know I am. Between democracy being under threat, environmental disasters, AI generated content flooding the internet, and enshittification continuing on its race to the bottom, it would be easy enough to use my allotted 800 words just to rant against the state of information and technology right now.

But me ranting doesn't really add anything helpful. You can easily find a never-ending commentary on Meta removing any rules governing hate speech on their platforms, fake AI chatbot accounts, and the outsized influence of tech billionaires on world politics, the public square, and many other aspects of our lives. I think rather than me repeating all of that, it's more important to find the "so what can we do about it" in the situation.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING

Humans and Technology

I've struggled with that part of it over the past little while. What can we do about it? There is so much we don't have a whole lot of control over. But there are things we can do, in aggregate and individually, to make a difference in our current circumstance.

Our attention in today's economy is worth something. It is the fuel from which the advertising machines that are masquerading as social media companies make billions of dollars every quarter. Public Health expert Timothy Caufield in his book *The Certainty Illusion*, describes the information economy as not driven by a quest for any kind of truth, but by the accumulation of attention. More eyes on what algorithms feed you means more eyes on the ads businesses buy from companies like Meta, which means Meta can sell more ads.

The damage this causes is two-fold. First, when our minds are overloaded, we become exhausted and unable to act on the information we need to. Second, it makes us doubt all of the information we're presented even if it is reliable. When our attention is commodified and exploited, we need to add that factor to our evaluation of the information we are receiving. However, that takes time and energy that we don't have if we're constantly engaged the way social media platforms want us to be – which by design is an endless scroll of emotionally fraught content. An exhausted mind leaves us unequipped to deal with the challenges of our time.

Author and educator Hank Green put what we can do about that very succinctly: "Take back your attention." We need to balance being informed with also having the brain-space to evaluate and act on the information we need to. One way we can do this is to ensure we are giving our attention intentionally and being selective of what information we ingest into our brains.

Conspiracy theory researcher Abbie Richards provides some good advice. She suggests moving our bodies before going online to remind our brain that it is more than an information sponge, finding moments to zone out, and setting aside designated social media time. David Moscrop, political scientist and commentator, uses a similar designated time approach to news and social media consumption. He argues that while it is important to be informed about what is going on in the world, the level to which 24-hour news networks and social media capture our attention is more harmful than useful.

To be clear, I'm not advocating we look at the big and difficult problems of our time and put our heads in the sand. But being in a constantly reactive state, like the proverbial chicken with its head cut off, is not much better. We need to build in processing time to evaluate and understand the information we are confronted with. We need time to come up with the "so what can we do about it" of it all. We don't have the capacity for that processing when standing in the full spray of an information fire hose.

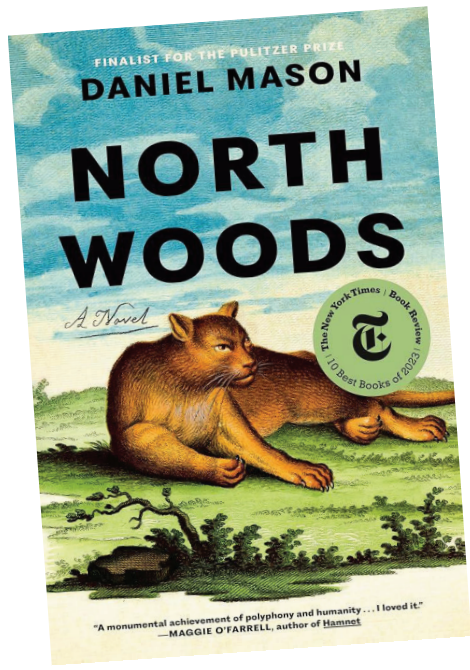
Another strategy we can use is actively seeking out information sources that don't rely on our constant attention. This can include having a handful of reliable news sources you read either in print or directly on their website (rather than through a link you find on social media), emailed newsletters, and reading more longform content. Remember, though, no matter where you get your information, you still need to use your information evaluation skills. Seek out information given to inform, empower, and that gives you some kind of action you can take.

Remember, our attention is worth actual money to the tech giants that want to capture it to fuel their advertising machines. But as much as our attention is worth to them, it is worth more to us. Give it away wisely, because we're all going to need it.

Minden Memories

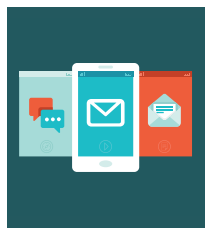
This photograph captures Main Street in Minden during the winter of 1940 viewed from the south end and looking toward the Gull River bridge. A caption in the frame states "Minden Main Street Clogged with Snow Circa 1940". /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

HCPL's Book of the Week


FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE
DANIEL MASON
NORTH WOODS
A Novel
The New York Times Book Review
10 Best Books of 2023
"A monumental achievement of polyphony and humanity . . . I loved it."
—MAGGIE O'FARRELL, author of Hamnet

When a pair of young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become home to an extraordinary succession of inhabitants. Traversing cycles of history, nature, and even literature, *North Woods* shows the myriad, magical ways in which we're connected to our environment and to one another, across time, language and space. Written along with the seasons and divided into the twelve months of the year, it is an unforgettable novel about secrets and fates that asks the timeless question: how do we live on, even after we're gone?

North Woods by Daniel Mason is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.



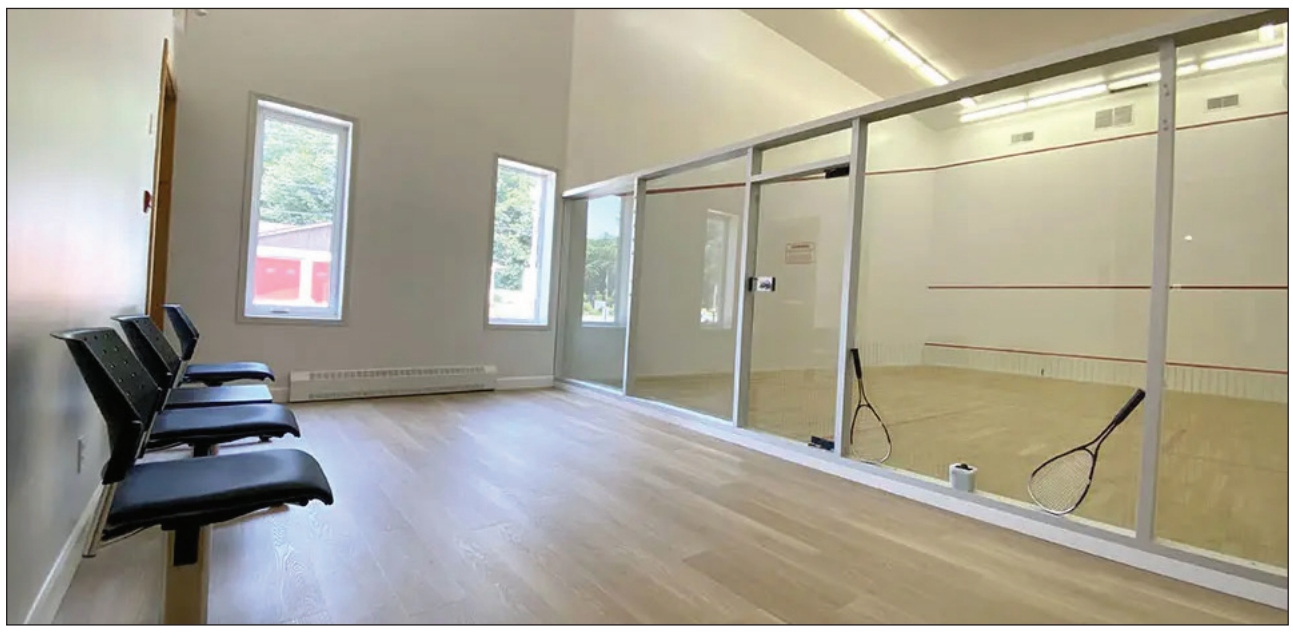
Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

Huskies Hockey

The Haliburton County Huskies had back to back games on home ice this past week. Below, the team came out on top against the Cobourg Cougars on Feb. 1 with a 5-3 win. The local Timbit hockey players showed their team spirit during the Satuday game. /TIM YANO staff photographer

MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE
Invites you to attend its
Annual General Meeting
Feb. 20, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.
24 Newcastle St., Minden (rear entrance)
Clients, donors, volunteers, and the public are welcome
705-286-6838 mindencommunityfoodcentre.ca



The squash courts are open for business in the newly opened Dorset Recreation Centre. /submitted

Squash your winter blues in Dorset

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

The Dorset Recreation Centre (DRC) re-opened in September last year. The newly renovated rec center houses a full gymnasium, squash court, fitness room, kitchen and meeting areas, as well as the Dorset branch of the Haliburton County Public Library.

"There are many programs offered at the Recreation Centre, including Yoga, Zumba, Toning Class, VON SMART program. There's also free wi-fi, a community computer and printing, drop-in basketball, pickleball and much more," said Sandra Rogers, recreation coordinator. "The DRC is the only facility of its kind in the area, so on top of the recreational opportunities it provides, it also fulfills a social function. It's a place where people from the community run into one another and catch up."

The Dorset Recreation Centre is advertising for people to "squash their winter blues" through playing squash at their indoor squash courts.

"Players often play with friends or colleagues and this allows for some great social camaraderie and friendly competition," said Rogers. "The sport demands constant movement with quick reactions which provides a full body workout."

The indoor squash courts provide the perfect opportunity for people to remain active throughout the winter, regardless of the weather. For people that have never played before, the rec centre also lets visitors borrow racquets and balls for anyone wanting to try their hand at the game.

Squash was first played in the mid-nineteenth century at Harrow School in England. The first squash court built in what is now modern-day Canada was at the St. John's Tennis Club in Newfoundland. Today, more than 400,000 players play squash recreationally and competitively.

Rogers reports that the squash court in the newly renovated rec centre continues to be well used with both returning players and new players to the sport.

For anyone interested in trying the game, the squash courts are available to reserve online for a minimum of one hour to a maximum time slot of two hours per day. There are no charges to reserve your spot and it is free for members to use. Day passes can also be purchased for use. The squash court is open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

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Huskies Hockey

The Huskies had a rare Thursday evening home game against the King Rebellion on Jan. 30. The game was fast-paced and well fought, but the Rebellion came out on top with a 6-2 win. The next home game for the Huskies is slated for the afternoon of Feb. 8 at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Public skating at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena moves payment by donation

The Township of Minden Hills wishes to advise that fees for Public Skating, including Parent and Tot, and adult skating at SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena have changed. Fees for the Public Skating Programs have been removed, and admission will be by donation. The donation box is located at the administration office during public skate times, check in is required before entering the ice pads.

Children nine years and under are required to wear CSA approved ice-skating helmet. Helmet use for other skaters is strongly recommended.

For questions regarding the outdoor rink, please contact the Community Services Department at 705-286-1260 x 554. For more information, visit the Township of Minden Hills website at www.mindenhills.ca.

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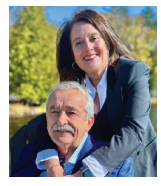

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Put your best boots forward

The county welcomed hikers to participate in the annual Hike Haliburton, winter edition this past weekend. The event offered guided hikes on both public and private land across the county. Below, Bethel Heights Farm welcomes hikers to visit the animals. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Above, skiers get outfitted to tackle the trails in Glebe Park as a part of a skiing adventure put on by Hike Haliburton. /ADAM FRISK special to the *Times*

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		8						6
			4				5	
	4	7					3	
				6	7	1		
	5	1						8
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9								
	7					6	8	

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 15

Those Other movies

Thursday, February 13

WE LIVE IN TIME

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Kinmount's Model Railway trio keeps renovations on-track

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

From left, Ron Claridge and Kevin Jackson are volunteers with the Kinmount Model Railway. John Tierney is the third member of the trio, not in the photo. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Ron Claridge has been coming to Kinmount for 30 years. With his wife originally from there, the couple retired to the small town in 2022.

"When I retired in Kinmount, [the Kinmount Model Railway] was closed," said Claridge. "So I got on the board with the Kinmount Community Volunteer Management committee. We were discussing the station and they said it was not opening that year."

Claridge was flabbergasted at the thought of the Kinmount Model Railway not opening. Not knowing anything about trains or model railroading, Claridge took it upon himself to get the model railway up and running in order to open the attraction to the public.

Prior to Claridge's leadership, Leonard Green ran the model railroading club. Unfortunately, Green passed away in 2021.

"I didn't spread the word too much, because I didn't know any people back then," said Claridge. "People just came and they were happy that it was running."

The first person to join Claridge's efforts was John Tierney. Tierney - a seasonal resident - visited the railway and pointed out different techniques and upgrades to the railway he thought Claridge may be interested in. He was soon convinced to join Claridge's mission of upgrading the model railway. Shortly afterwards, Kevin Jackson, a resident of Tory Hill was fated to chat with Claridge during a visit, and was also recruited. Since their unification, the trio has been an unstoppable force in upgrading, redecorating, and re-envisioning the model railway and museum to showcase Kinmount and the surrounding areas' histories.

"When you are presenting something to the public, you have to make sure it is working. You have to run it while they are standing there watching it," said Claridge.

The Kinmount Model Railway was re-opened with only three locomotives that were left over. The model railway is in HO scale, which is the most popular scale in the world, says Claridge.

The newest engine model was from 2007, Jackson says that when examined, it was on its last legs, and not in presentable condition.

"When we came in, the track was running on 1990s technology," said Claridge.

"The track was black, it was unusable," said Jackson. Having sat unused and unmaintained during the COVID-19 pandemic, the track became oxidized. Claridge says it took about two weeks to clean the track up to a working condition.

The Kinmount Model Railway and surrounding museum is open during the summer. During the winter however, the trio utilizes the downtime to make renovations and upgrade the model. One of their first projects after the group formed was incorporating Just Plug Lighting with the layout. Just Plug advertises itself as a quick and easy lighting solution for model railroad tracks. Lights were added inside houses, the Donald Standard Chemical Plant, and in signs throughout the little village, bringing the layout to life.

The trio strives for historical accuracy throughout the map, with some fictional aspects and magic tying everything together. The layout transports visitors along an imagined Victoria Railway, (with some parts of the Irondale, Bancroft, and Ottawa railway) from the period of 1895 to 1945. On one end of the track, when you first walk into the room, you begin your visit at the Haliburton Railway Station. Walking from Haliburton, guests adventure across the Victoria Railway to Donald which showcases the Donald Standard Chemical Building. You then travel across the Crego Creek trestle bridge and end your adventure in Kinmount.

Throughout the layout, historic photos are hung on the wall to show visitors the real-world counterparts of the buildings. The group uses an artistic license with the layout, cheating the angles of buildings for guests to clearly see them.

Some of the other upgrades the group has completed on the railway include sliding barriers to protect the layout, repainting backgrounds, and 3-D printing new buildings and miniatures. The group has also converted the layout from DC to DCC-EX with Java Model Railroad Interface using an arduino and Raspberry Pi computer with the capability to be run off a cellphone.

The trio also built a smaller, portable layout to bring to the annual Kinmount Fair.

This winter, the group's main goals are to finish their Haliburton turntable, smooth the track near Kinmount, and find an artist to paint a mural in the layout room.

"The three of us get along fantastically," says Claridge.

In part, the trio's relationship works so well as they each bring a unique skill-set to the Kinmount Model Railway. Jackson has experience in electrical engineering and is an expert in the electrical system and all computer aspects of the layout, Tierney is a master of scenery and designing the layout, and Claridge has a wonderful eye for painting and the smaller details.

To support the layout, the group attends model railway shows throughout the year and has souvenir mugs available, with donations appreciated.

In total, the Kinmount Model Railway encompasses 77 feet of track, attracting visitors from around the world. At the time of my visit, the guest book included recent names from New Zealand, South Korea, North Carolina, and Ecuador, to name a few.

"Just to come here and look at the trains is fun," said Claridge. "But to learn how they operate and how to maintain them, these trains need maintenance just like a real train would. You have to put oil in them and grease them. They don't just run off love."

Claridge says in his retirement, he has been able to latch onto the hobby and invest his time in something that brings wonderment and joy to its visitors.

"My favourite thing is watching the trains run," said Jackson. "I really enjoy fixing them, believe it or not."

Claridge's favourite part of the layout is Kinmount, due to its detail, including shops that feature images of the original stores. His second is Donald.

"The Chemical Plant turned out amazing, absolutely amazing," said Claridge.

"I'm learning more from these two fellas every day," said Claridge. "It is unbelievable. I am always in awe of what they know."

Flynn Lawrence has been recruited by the trio to assist with operating the railway during the summer. An up-and-coming railroading prodigy, the trio are excited to utilize Lawrence's operating skills while the three can chat with the public.

Recently, the Kinmount Lions Club have pledged their support to the Kinmount Model Railway. In 2024, the Kinmount Lions Club awarded Claridge with the title of Citizen of the Year. Claridge is thrilled to have been recognized as Citizen of the Year, but knows that he could not have made the Kinmount Model Railway the success it is without the help of Jackson and Tierney.

For those that are interested in updates on the layout, the Kinmount Model Railway has a Facebook page titled "Kinmount Station and Model Railway". They also have an email address: kinmountmountrailway@gmail.com. The Kinmount Model Railway is entirely volunteer run and relies on donations from the public to keep it going. They will happily accept a donation in the form of money or items to help with the layout.

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19+

Kinmount Lions use euchre to help out

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Lion Wayne Donald first brought the idea of a euchre tournament to the Kinmount Lions. The day after, Donald unexpectedly passed away. This year, the Kinmount Lions are proud to announce their first ever euchre tournament in his memory.

Donald was known for his joviality, his kindness, and dedication to helping his community, but most of all, Donald was known for his world-famous lemonade. Donald would make his lemonade for every occasion and kept his recipe a secret.

"He took great pride in his recipe," said Chris Weerdenburg, chair for District A-16's Childhood Cancer Committee, and past district governor.

Donald had moved from Fowler's Corners to Kinmount in 2021. In just a few precious years, Donald quickly became a pillar of the community. From making kids smile when they were meeting Santa Claus or helping with the Lions' annual baseball tournament, Donald loved being a Lion and making his community a better place. Donald even had a lifelong connection to Kinmount, which included working at the Austin Sawmill in his youth.

"He was a go-er," said Weerdenburg, "Whatever he could do when we were doing a function, he was there and he was very committed."

To honour Donald, the Kinmount Lions decided to continue with their plans of a euchre tournament.

The purpose of the euchre tournament is to raise money to build an expanded, purpose-built, pediatric cancer clinic space at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC). To achieve these goals, the Health Centre needs around $625,000. The Peterborough and Region 52 Lions have committed $100,000 to the fundraising effort. For children battling cancer, their first treatments often take place at SickKids in Toronto. After their primary care is completed, care is often continued at regional health centres and hospitals closer to the children's homes such as the PRHC.

"We are halfway there already," said Weerdenburg.

In the past, the Lions have donated books, crafting supplies, and Christmas gifts to the children battling cancer at the PRHC.

Last year, there were over 600 patients that utilized the pediatric cancer care program there.

"With increasing patient volumes and concerns about the rise of infectious diseases – especially for vulnerable pediatric patients, the current location of PRHC's pediatric cancer services is no longer appropriate and isn't large enough for its purpose," says the PRHC Foundation.

The new space will provide specialty built consultation, treatment, and meeting rooms designed to keep vulnerable patients safe from cross-infection, accommodate larger collaborative care teams, and fit larger families who may have to bring additional children with them. This space will allow families to reduce the amount of travelling between home and treatments. The Kinmount Lions are also adamant that the new care centre is bright and welcoming to children and their families, which will ease children's nerves and make their experiences there better.

"A family's ability to access expert care for a child with cancer shouldn't be affected by circumstance," writes the PRHC Foundation.

The Kinmount, Minden, and Haliburton Lions are always looking for new volunteers to get involved. Weerdenburg says that anyone can get involved with the Lions and make a difference in the community, with a commitment of only one hour a week. She encourages young people to come out to meetings and try being a Lion out. With an aging population, the Lions hope to attract young people to continue their philanthropic efforts.

"It will be so nice for young people to be involved," said Weerdenburg.

Lions Clubs International District A-16 focuses on five pillars of global causes including environmental efforts, diabetes, hunger, childhood cancer, and vision.

The first ever Kinmount Lions euchre tournament will be held on Feb. 23 at the Kinmount Legion. All ages are welcome to play in the tournament. Participation is $20 and teams are encouraged to register together. The tournament will open their doors at 10 a.m. with the games beginning at 11 a.m. Food will be available and there will also be a 50/50 draw. Prizes will be awarded to the top finishing teams. For those interested in playing, please contact Darlene at 226-802-4090 or by emailing scan161@gmail.com.

Roberta Martin-Haw from the PRHC accepts donations from the Lions to the pediatric cancer ward. /Submitted

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3	1	5	6	8	2	9	7	4
4	9	8	3	7	5	2	1	6
7	2	6	4	1	9	8	5	3
6	4	7	1	2	8	5	3	9
8	3	9	5	6	7	1	4	2
2	5	1	9	3	4	7	6	8
5	6	2	8	4	1	3	9	7
9	8	3	7	5	6	4	2	1
1	7	4	2	9	3	6	8	5

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Please submit your resume and cover letter by **3:00 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay,
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

MINDEN COMMUNITY FOOD CENTRE

Will You Join the Board of the Minden Community Food Centre?

The Minden Community Food Centre, your local charity working to reduce food insecurity for those in need, is seeking a new volunteer to join our Board of Directors.

We are looking for a compassionate person with strong communication skills and a supportive team player to help us achieve our mandate to provide supplemental healthy foods for our clients living in Minden Hills.

We are looking for an individual to assume the position of Recording Secretary on the Board. Relevant skills include attention to detail, organizational skills to manage records, the ability to take accurate notes at our monthly meetings, and familiarity with Microsoft Word.

If you have the skills, time, and experience, we would like to hear from you by F**ebruary 15, 2025.** Please contact us by e-mail and tell us about your interest in the position of Recording Secretary and your background, skill set, and experience.

Send your e-mail to
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Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than February 14, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

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650 OBITUARIES

Mary Pearsell (nee Formica)

Resident of Haliburton

It is with hearts full of fond memories and immense gratitude that we say goodbye to our Mom, Gram, & Nonna. After a day surrounded by family, during peaceful sleep, in the presence of caring nursing home staff, she left us on January 27, 2025, at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care in her 95th year. She was born in a Haliburton (Guilford Township) lumber camp on March 1, 1930. Beloved wife of the late Gordon Pearsell (m. 1950). Loving Mom of Deeno (Charlene) and Marina Maughan (Miles). Cherished Gram of Abbey Saunders (Charlie), Lesley Broadworth (Daryl), and Reuben Maughan. Proud Nonna of Connor Broadworth. Predeceased by her husband Gordon Pearsell (2015) and by her Italian immigrant parents Eugenio (1968) and Vittoria (Biagi) Formica (1999). Lovingly remembered by her sisters Gladys (Howard Roberts, predeceased) and Deena (Joseph MacCauley, predeceased). Fondly remembered by nephews, nieces, family, and friends. Mary was an original parishioner of St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church, where she was a dedicated, long-term volunteer. Mary was educated at Shaw's Business College, Toronto; one of the first women in her family to become a working professional.

Rosary, Visitation & Mass of Christian Burial

Friends & relatives were invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Thursday afternoon, January 30, 2025 for Rosary at 2 p.m., followed by visitation from 3 – 5 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial took place at **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** 27 Victoria Street Haliburton, Ontario on Friday morning, January 31, 2025 at 12 o'clock (Noon). Spring Interment St. Anthony of Padua Roman Catholic Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to St. Anthony Cemetery Fund or SIRCH Community Services would be appreciated by the family.

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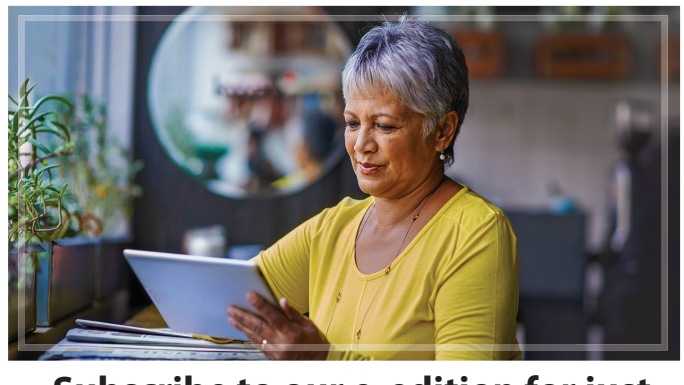

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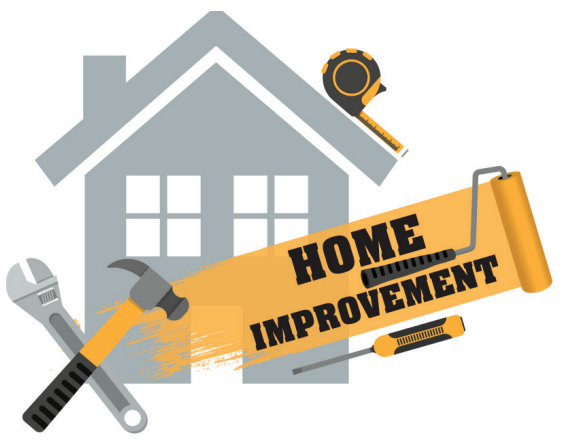

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The Minden Curling Club was host to three days of intense competition on January 6, 7 and 8 when it hosted the Ontario Curling Association Men's Provincial Tankard Zone Playdowns. The two Minden teams competing in the event played well, but not well enough to advance to the regional competition in Kingston. Two Peterborough rinks succeeded in winning in Minden and were to have represented and were to have represented the zone this past weekend in Kingston.

CHANGE brings recycling to Highlands

Within two days Haliburton County residents will have a convenient way of recycling old cans, newspapers and glass and plastic bottles.

The County of Haliburton Association for a Naturally Good Environment (CHANGE) has arranged for a huge four-compartment bin to be placed at the Haliburton landfill site, where recyclable materials can be deposited. Bess Zwecher, one of the core group of CHANGE, said Don Coates of Muskoka Containerized Services donated the bin to the county for the next six months. It will be arriving this Wednesday and there will be a bit of a ceremony at the site at 1 p.m.

Because Haliburton County Council is now entering into a three-year waste management study, it is unlikely that local municipalities will be initiating recycling programs in the near future. With this in mind, CHANGE members decided to see what they could do to make recycling more convenient.

Many cottagers pack up their recyclable wastes and bring them home to be recycled. Zwecher says there are many who wish to recycle and the arrival of this bin will make it possible.

While the bin itself is being provided rent free, there will be a cost to have it taken over to Bracebridge to be emptied. Each trip will cost about $120 which is being raised through donations from individuals.

The key to making this temporary program a success is by using the bins properly. There are four compartments to the bin. One is for tin and aluminum cans, which should be crushed to conserve space in the compartment. Another is for newspapers, which should be bundled to avoid them blowing out and making a mess of the entire area. The third compartment will be for the large plastic pop bottles, which should also be crushed to save space.

The final compartment is for glass bottles and jars. The lids should be removed from these and they should be rinsed out.

The container will be open to everyone in the county during the hours that the dump site is open. The Haliburton dump is located just off Highway 121.

Minden vying for a bin

The news that a recycling bin is being placed at the Haliburton landfill site has spurred Anson, Hindon and Minden Townships Council to try and find out if a second bin could be placed at one of the Minden landfill sites.

At last Thursday's council meeting, Deputy Reeve Bern Berry said it would be more convenient to residents of this side of the county is another bin could be placed at the Scotch Line Landfill site. He suggested that council contact representatives of the County of Haliburton Association for a Naturally Good Environment (CHANGE) to find out if this would be possible.

The bin that is being placed in Haliburton was arranged for by CHANGE and will be available to all residents of the county who are interested in recycling their garbage. The four-compartment bin is to arrive this Wednesday and has been donated by Muskoka Containerized Services.

Weather claims fifth Minden Derby

Trail is 'solid ice' from start to finish

The fifth running of the Minden Martin Sled Dog Derby has fallen victim to the weather. The race organizing committee announced the cancellation Wednesday afternoon after carefully examining the trail.

Steve Lougheed, Trail Boss for the derby, and his wife Val, who is the Race Governor, decided to close down the derby because of the treacherous conditions on the trail. "It is virtually solid ice from one end of the trail to the other," Steve Lougheed said Wednesday afternoon after a final inspection of the four and eight mile trails. He said running a race under these conditions would pose too great a risk to dogs and drivers.

"We have an obligation to the safety of the animals and the drivers," Val Lougheed commented. She pointed out that the Minden derby had, over the past four years, earned a reputation for the quality of the race and course. "We didn't want to jeopardize the integrity we have built up over those four years," she said.

Both Val and Steve are participants in sled dog racing and after examining the trails on Wednesday, agreed they would not run their own teams under the conditions which prevailed on the trails and therefore could not, in good conscience, ask others to risk their dogs on the course.

The decision to cancel the race Wednesday seemed to be underlined by Mother Nature on Thursday when mild temperatures brought rain and more melting of what little snow there was along the trail. The conditions confirmed what the committee had done the day before.

In four years, the Minden Sled Dog Derby has grown into a major winter tourism attraction. Racers come from throughout North America to take part in the race. This year's purse of $20,000 provided by Martin Pet Foods of Elmira had attracted an even higher calibre of participants. The event has gained a reputation in the racing community for the excellent organization, challenging trails, and the excitement that comes with a main street start and finish. For most of the spectators, the spectacle of the excited dogs being led to the starting line is a popular one. The colour and noise of the sled dog derby has attracted increased attention each year.

According to Val Lougheed, the organizing committee laboured long and hard over the decision to cancel the race. "We

(more on page 23)

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